

NEW SITE FOR ARMORY.

Unfinished Half of Jerome Park Basin May Be Eighth Regiment's Home.

The Executive Committee of the Armory Board, consisting of the Mayor, the Controller, and the President of the Board of Aldermen, will recommend to that body on Monday that the proposed new armory for the Eighth Regiment, Coast Artillery, N. G. N. Y., be built in the southeast corner of the unused half of the Jerome Park reservoir. If this action is taken, and there is expected to be not the slightest objection, a part of a piece of property which has long been an eyesore in the Bronx, will be devoted to some practical use.

It is proposed to take thirteen and three-quarters acres of the ground for the armory site, running 1,000 feet on Jerome Avenue and 600 feet of Kingsbridge Road. This is only a small part of the entire plot, which is 135 acres in area.

There has been an agitation for some time for a new armory for the Eighth Regiment. At present it occupies the armory in East Ninety-fourth Street, between Madison and Park Avenues, with Squadron A. Both organizations have outgrown their quarters, and the Armory Board has been considering for some time the turning of the whole of the present structure over to the squadron.

Last year a bill was passed by the Legislature authorizing the city to build an armory for the Eighth Regiment in Crotona Park. This raised much objection, and the plan was fought strenuously, THE TIMES taking a prominent part in the contest. The fight was successful, Mayor McClellan vetoing the bill.

The history of the vacant plot, the corner of which it is now proposed to take for the armory, is one of the most interesting in recent New York City contracting. The 220 acres comprising the old Jerome Park race track were bought by the city in the early nineties for some \$8,000,000 and turned over to the old Aqueduct Commission for a site for one of the Croton Aqueduct reservoirs. In July, 1895, the contract for the work was let to John B. McDonald, afterward the principal contractor for the construction of the Subway, at \$5,473,000.

The westerly basin of the reservoir, covering ninety-four acres, was constructed, and work begun on the easterly basin. Most of the excavating was done and a large amount of material, including broken stone, &c., was bought and carted to the ground. Finally, in 1905, work was suspended.

Up to that time the reservoir had cost the city \$10,286,000, nearly twice the figure of the original contract. Since then the ground has remained an unsightly and barren hole. Even the derricks were left standing, although to-day they are rotting and toppling over.

When Mayor Gaynor came into office he removed the members of the old Aqueduct Commission and appointed new men, with instructions to wind up the affairs of the body as soon as possible. By an act of the Legislature, recently passed and approved by the Mayor, the commission will pass out of existence on June 1, its functions going to the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity.

The Sinking Fund Commission asked recently for a report from all the city departments on the property in their jurisdiction lying idle, and will doubtless soon take steps for the disposal of these parcels. Among them the principal will be this unused half of the Jerome Park Reservoir. It has been estimated that in spite of the fact that for most purposes a costly filling-in process would be necessary, the land would bring, in the market at least \$5,000,000, taking into consideration the increase in the value of the surrounding property, which has been exceedingly large since the construction of the Subway and the planning of a new one.

If part of the site is used for an armory an extensive filling-in process will be unnecessary, as one of the requisites for such a building is a large, deep basement.

SUFFRAGISTS NOT PATRIOTS

Says Women's Civic League in Opposing Decoration Day Plans.

The National League for the Civic Education of Women went on record yesterday as protesting against the plan of the suffragists to decorate on Decoration Day the graves of the women who devoted their lives to the cause of woman suffrage.

"It is announced," said Helen Kendrick Johnson, on behalf of the organization, "that the suffrage associations are to use the day that has been set apart for the commemoration of the men who laid down their lives in defense of the Republic as the one in which to put a travesty of the National flag on the graves of those who devoted their lives to the cause of woman suffrage."

"This is so grotesque that it might well pass unnoticed by the opposers of woman suffrage were it not for the fact that there is a serious aspect to the suffrage movement, as it relates to patriotism, which should neither be ignored nor go unrebuked."

"It is said the principal graves to be decorated with the farcical ensign of suffrage will be those of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. What deeds of their patriotism and self-sacrifice will it commemorate? Not one."

"Patriotic women and their descendants cannot now see, without a brief but earnest protest, the attempt that is being made by suffragists to glean from the solemn service of the Republic remembrance something of notoriety in aid of a cause whose leaders were not numbered among the loyal and self-sacrificing women at the time of the Republic's sorest need."